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HUNGARIAN WEATHER REPORT FOR MARCH 1950

Map showing distribution of rainfall is appended. 7

The most significant thing about the weather in March was the extensive and exceptional Crought. A glance at the map shows that there was less than 5 millimeters precipitation in the northeastern fourth of the country. This is only one-sixth to one-tenth the average precipitation for March in these areas, where the average fall for the month is 30 to 40 millimeters. The total for Budapest, for instance, was 5 millimeters, which is only 11 percent of the average fall. In the 110 years that the rainfall of Budapest has been measured, the precipitaetion in March was less than this March only twice, in 1910 and 1921, when only one millimeter precipitation was reported both times. A rainfall of as much as 20 millimeters was reported only in Sopron and Baranya counties. The heaviest fall occurred in Suttor, but even here the 35-millimeter fall was below the average for the area. Agriculture did not suffer too much from this drought, because thorough proper care of the soil, much of the comparatively heavy winter rains were kept in the ground.

The temperature for the entire country was one-half to 12 degrees higher than the average, and nearly 2 degrees above average in Budapest.

This March there was 20 to 30 percent and in some places, 40 percent, more sunshine than usual. The clear days and nights were accompanied by high temperatures during the day, and very low temperatures at night. This probably accounts for the great difference between midnight and noon temperatures.

March began with cold weather, 1 March being the coldest day of the month in the trans-Danube and the Duna-Tisza regions, where temperatures of -6 and -5 degrees (all degrees in centigrade) were reported. The temperature reached -7 in the central regions. Light frost occurred in this region and over all the country.

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A warm air mass entered the country from the southeast, but extended only as far as the Gyor-Szekesfehervar-Baja line. East of here, spring weather prevailed, the temperature reaching 5 to 8 degrees, and 9 to 10 degrees at the eastern border. The weather was wintry in most of the trans-Danube region, with snow in many places. The frost lasted all day in Sopron and Koszeg. On the morning of 2 March, a layer of snow up to 16 centimeters covered the southern portions of the trans-Danube area.

No other significant change occurred on 2 March, except that snow continued to fall in the southern portion of the trans-Danube region, with large drifts hindering traffic in Nagykanizsa. The temperature did not rise above 5 degrees. On the plains, on the other hand, the temperature was a mild 5 to 10 degrees. Of the 100 stations reporting precipitation, seven reported a fall of more than 5 millimeters. Rain continued to fall the following day in the Danube region, but to a lesser extent. During the 6th, 7th, and 8th, the temperature rose to 10 degrees, and to 15 degrees in some places. On the 8th the temperature rose to 20 degrees in Zalaegerszeg, Keszthely, Nagykanizsa, and Nagykonyi, and reached 21 degrees in Lenti and Szombathely, which was the high for the month for these places. This warm spell was caused by the arrival of warm sea air coming from the Carpathian basir, and by many hours of sunshine.

On the 9th, a cold air mass came across the northeast Carpathian Mountains, but the warm air mass remained in the trans-Danube region for 2 days more. The temperature was 4 degrees in Miskolc, Eger, and Jaszapati, while it rose to 15 degrees in Zalaegerszeg and Lenti. On the 10th, the highest temperature at Miskolc was zero, and at Putnok-1 degree. At Szombathely, Keszthely, and Gyor, the lowest temperature was 3 degrees, and at Szentgotthard and Koszeg 4 degrees. Snow accompanied the cold air mass in the northeast areas, covering Kisvarda and Csenger with 5 and 4 centimeters of snow respectively.

By 11 March, the cold air had covered the entire country, and a temperature of 10 degrees was reached in only one or two places. The 10th and the 11th were the coldest days for the eastern counties. The temperature on the 10th at Turkeve, Szeghalom, and Szendrolada was -4, and on the 11th, -7 degrees at Kisvarda and Nyiregyhaza, with -8 degrees at Debrecen. Surface temperature was -10 degrees at Nyiregyhaza and -12 degrees at Debrecen:

The following few days brought more changeable weather due to transient air masses from the sea passing to the north, and the 15th to the 19th was a sunny, dry period with one very warm day, the 17th.

The warm period was ended with the arrival of a cold continental air mass from the southeast. On the 23d, a maritime air mass caused showers in many parts of the country, especially in the eastern part of the trans-Danube region, and even storms at Kaposvar. This mass was followed by successive maritime air masses, but without causing precipitation. After some wavering, the temperature began to rise. The 29th and 30th were the warmest days east of the trans-Danube region. Cool air approaching from the south caused a slight lowering of the temperature on the last days of the month.

Appended map follows 7

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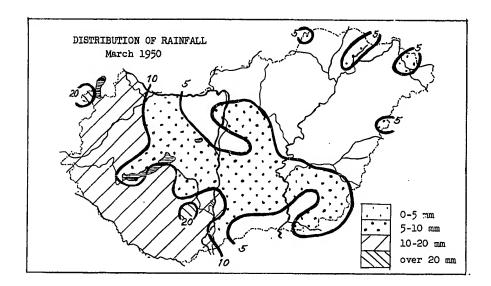
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